

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 168988
ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT/LVA
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-----016418 040742Z /21
R 040704Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168988

FOR MAGEE FROM ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. INAPPROPRIATE USE OF NIACT IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE. WE ARE SORRY ABOUT THE PROBLEMS WHICH STATE 160655 CAUSED TO THE POST. WE DECIDED THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE THE MESSAGE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 24, BECAUSE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT ON JUNE 23 PRAISING THE GOB'S ROLE IN RETURNING THE TERRORISTS, AND ON THE OFF CHANCE THAT YOU OR THE AMBASSADOR MIGHT SEE MLADENOV AT SOME SOCIAL EVENT, AIRPORT WELCOMING, OR OTHER
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DOING OVER THE WEEKEND. VERY MINDFUL OF WHAT IS ENTAILED IN NIACTS AT YOUR END, WE HAD ATTEMPTED TO US A WHAT HAD BEEN A TRIED AND TESTED PROCEDURE WHEREBY WE REQUESTED THE DEPARTMENT'S TELEGRAPH BRANCH TO HOLD THE MESSAGE UNTIL ABOUT 2:00 A.M. WASHINGTON TIME ON SATURDAY MORNING, WHICH WOULD HAVE THUS MEANT THAT THE BELLS WOULD NOT HAVE STARTED TO RING IN SOFIA UNTIL AFTER 8:00 A.M. YOUR TIME. ALTHOUGH THIS SYSTEM HAS WORKED WELL IN THE PAST, IT DID NOT THIS TIME. WE REGRET THIS AND HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO MAKE SURE THAT

THE SYSTEM WILL BE FAIL-SAFE FOR THE FUTURE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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